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Diana T Fritz 08/27/2006 05:09:41 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

Cable
Text:

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 04951

SIPDIS
CXABU:

ACTION: POL
INFO: RSO MEPI AMB PAO DCM P/M ECON

DISSEMINATION: POL
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM:MQUINN
DRAFTED: POL:RBASSIL
CLEARED: POL:JFMAYBURY CG:JDAVIS

VZCZCADI149
RR RUEHC RUEHDE RUEHZM
DE RUEHAD #4951 3411437
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 071437Z DEC 05
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2658
INFO RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 5616
RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 004951

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR DRL, NEA/ARPI AND NEA/PPD

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [KCRM](#) [AE](#)
SUBJECT: 26 ALLEGEDLY GAY MEN IN DETENTION AWAITING TRIAL

REF: ABU DHABI 4881

¶1. (SBU) THE 26 ALLEGEDLY GAY MEN ARRESTED BY ABU DHABI POLICE DURING A PARTY ON NOVEMBER 23 REMAIN IN POLICE CUSTODY AWAITING TRIAL, ACCORDING TO AN ABU DHABI POLICE CAPTAIN WORKING IN THE INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT. THE MEN WILL BE CHARGED WITH "OFFENSES AGAINST RULES OF DECENCY," THE POLICE CAPTAIN SAID, ADDING THAT A COURT DATE HAS YET TO BE SCHEDULED.

¶2. (U) ENGLISH DAILY "KHALEEJ TIMES" REPORTED DECEMBER 1 THAT THE MEN WOULD BE DETAINED FOR ANOTHER SEVEN DAYS "IN ORDER TO FACILITATE INVESTIGATIONS." SINCE THEN, THERE HAVE BEEN NO PRESS REPORTS ABOUT THE DISPOSITION OF THE CASE.

¶3. (SBU) ACCORDING TO THE UAE PENAL CODE, THE MINIMUM PENALTY FOR A PERSON CONVICTED OF COMMITTING AN "INDECENT ACT" IS SIX MONTHS IN PRISON, FOLLOWED BY AN EQUAL PERIOD OF PROBATION, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS IS THE PART OF THE PENAL CODE THAT WILL BE APPLIED. SPOKESPERSONS AT THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION TO OFFER THE EMBASSY, WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THIS CASE.

¶4. (SBU) HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH HAS BEEN INQUIRING WITH THE EMBASSY ABOUT THE CASE AND WILL APPARENTLY ISSUE A PRESS RELEASE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH BECAME INTERESTED IN THE CASE AFTER SEEING PRESS REPORTS THAT THE ABU DHABI POLICE WOULD SUBJECT THE MEN TO FORCED HORMONE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TREATMENT. THE LATTER ASSERTION BY A UAE INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL WAS OFFICIALLY DISAVOWED (REFTEL).

¶5. (SBU) ONE SENIOR MININFO OFFICIAL OBSERVED DURING A CALL BY DCM ON MONDAY THAT THE USG STATEMENT ON THE INCIDENT SEEMED UNEXPECTEDLY STRONG, BUT IN A LATER CONVERSATION EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE MEN WOULD BE PUNISHED.
SISON